

Serial No.: 09/965,371

Attorney Docket No.: 2001P17795US

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicant's invention. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 5-6, and 11-24 were indicated to be allowed.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Fingerhut, U.S. Patent No. 6,636,489 ("Fingerhut") in view of Lipsit, U.S. Patent No. 5,956,636 ("Lipsit"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Fingerhut or Lipsit, either singly or in combination.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite "forward[ing] activation information to said central database and others of said plurality of local switches."

As discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Fingerhut does not relate to storing preactivation information or activation information locally or initially activating a telephone at a local switch and propagating that information to the central server and other switches (i.e., network-wide), as generally recited in the claims at issue. Applicant respectfully submits that Lipsit similarly fails to provide such teachings. Instead, like Fingerhut, Lipsit appears to relate to transmitting activation information to a central server and then activating the cell phone network-wide. That is, in Lipsit, no preactivation information is provided to a local switch. Instead, the information must be transmitted to the activation unit which communicates with the database. Only after the MSC (and, presumably, all MSCs) is communicated to by the activation unit is the cell phone allowed to activate. In contrast, an advantage of the present invention is that it can activate locally at a switch that has been provided with the preactivation information; activation information is then transmitted to the central database and/or other switches to allow functioning with the other switches.

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Thus, if anything, Fingerhut and Lispit are representative of problems solved by the present invention. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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